Preparation of electoral rolls

1861. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to allow private agencies or unemployed youth in preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls are two different aspects of management of electoral rolls. As far as preparation of the electoral roll is concerned, there is no proposal for employing private agencies or unemployed youth for the purpose. In the context of the maintenance of electoral rolls, it may be stated that the electoral rolls are maintained in computerized database with clearly defined data structures and issues relating to Indian languages etc. on the technological front as per the standard laid down by the Commission. For implementation strategy a State level agency in the shape of an Information Technology organization of Central/State Government is allowed to be appointed for overall managment of the programme of computerization of electoral rolls. The Commission is considering to allow private agencies with adequate infrastructure and expertise to be appointed as State level agencies to handle the mammoth work.

(c) A clean and error free electoral roll is the primary requisite for conducting free and fair elections in the country. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that Government servants of appropriate status, experience, commitment and whose accountability can be ensured are appointed for preparation of electoral rolls.